

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Training

FROM : Chief, School of International  
Communism and the USSR

SUBJECT: Weekly activities Report No. 48  
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## I. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

1. [ ] met with representatives of ORR, OCI, [ ] SRS, SR Division and a representative of [ ] and me, 4 December for approximately two hours. [ ] described the present Russian Program of Special Studies [ ] of which he is the head and stated that [ ] was considering making certain changes. Apparently the possible changes go all the way from elimination of the program to attempts to develop more specialized studies within it. It appeared that people who studied within the two-year area program on masters material tended to find themselves unable to go on toward a PhD without in effect losing a year of the two-year work. This appears to be so because the development of the area studies program cannot sufficiently provide conformance with the "required disciplines" necessary in normal academic graduate activity. To sum up the reactions of the various representatives:

a. ORR desires more emphasis and more specialization in the field of Soviet economics.

b. OCI feels that the present program is quite satisfactory and provides the type of individual that they are anxious to obtain.

c. Both the above felt that a course in geography of the Soviet area was needed.

d. SRS agreed with OCI on the political background of the course and raised the need for tying in a study of Communist China with the study of Soviet ideology. They also suggested the broadening of studies on Eastern Europe, to be in effect organizing an overall study on Communist problems and philosophy.

It was my feeling that language, which is already being given considerable prominence, is the key to a more rapid and better area program generally and that the Agency had need of individuals knowledgeable in minority languages and minority areas which were not now being

provided. [ ] agreed heartily with this and pointed out that individuals with the language could reduce the two-year program to one year. Although he felt that the Chinese language was important he seemed to believe that there were very few people who could master both Russian and Chinese together. There have been a few individuals whom he has permitted to progress in this fashion as well as in simultaneous study of Arabic and Russian. [ ] appeared to feel that the Eastern European Study Group [ ] presently sufficed to cover this field. Although he recognized the need for further minority language and area study, he said that it was difficult to get qualified individuals in these fields and at present [ ] did not attempt to teach the Caucasian or Central Asian languages. He appeared to feel that Ukrainian and Byelorussian were about as far afield as they were likely to get.

Two other points which he raised were:

a. Clearances for graduates of the Area Studies Program frequently came too late to permit the graduate to become available to accept a Government assignment.

b. That contracts for Government employment were seldom sufficiently definite to permit individuals to rely upon them with the result that graduates frequently became disenchanted during their negotiations.

I took [ ] back to his hotel where he was to be picked up by [ ] and other representatives of OCI who had attended his Special Studies Program, and taken to lunch. [ ] asked specifically whether he might find out if one of his students, [ ] has been definitely turned down by the Agency. I am calling this to the attention of [ ] of the Personnel Procurement Section under [ ] and if it is possible will let [ ] know. It seems quite logical that students in the Area Studies Program would want to know about their possibility of employment by the Agency at least by the spring prior to their graduation. With budget problems the number of security clearances being requested must have certainly been considerably reduced at this time. I feel that this is an appropriate point to make to the Director of Personnel and I am mentioning it [ ]

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II. OTHER ACTIVITIES

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1. [ ] and I have prepared briefing notes, together with some statistics, to brief the DDS. The briefing is broken down into four parts:

- a. History, Purpose and Proposed Phases
- b. Summarization of Activities in the Calendar Years 1957 & 1958
- c. Points to Note
- e. Problems.

I am attaching the original of my briefing notes in case you should be interested in glancing over them and giving me any suggestions or advice. I should appreciate their return.

2. A representative of Graphics, [ ] has conferred with [ ] and me with respect to a more permanent up-to-date presentation of certain of the exhibits which we have put in the back of Wing A in Alcott Hall. I do not believe that this exhibit will be sufficiently well finished to suggest the DDS look at it soon, as Graphics will probably not be able to put much work on it until mid-January at the earliest.

3. [ ] if FE has requested two weeks of tutorial for two [ ] early in 1959.

4. Tutorial Training:

[ ]	28 November		8 hours
	1 December -	[ ]	8 hours
	2 December		8 hours
	2 December		8 hours
	3 December	"	8 hours
	4 December	"	8 hours
	4 December		4 hours

5. Non-Agency Presentations:

[ ]	1 December - FSI "Communist Ideology"	
	2 December - FSI "Political System"	
	2 December - NIS "Theory and Principles of Communism"	
	3 December - FSI "Soviet Economy"	[ ]

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